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Frank Vitale  
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Re: Senate Bills 1026-1030 & House Bills 5744-5745

Dear Representative Drolet:

Adult Foster Care homes need your support of legislation that is critical important to us and 5000 other licensees statewide. Your committee is considering Senate Bills 1026-1030 and House Bills 5744-5745 this week. These bills amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act, Public Health Code, Mental Health Code, Administrative Procedures Act and Social Welfare Act. The enactment of these statutory amendments is not only essential but critical to us. Without them, we will be subject to burdensome and unreasonable administrative rules.

By way of background, I operate licensed adult foster care homes serving persons with developmental disabilities. We provide 24-hour personal care, supervision and protection for some of the most vulnerable adults in the community. Last summer, the Department of Human Services and Community Health proposed extensive changes to our licensing rules. I strongly oppose many of these proposed changes and have voiced my concerns and our issues have not been satisfactorily addressed by the respective state agencies.

Without this legislation, our limited resources will be wrongfully diverted away from direct consumer supports and services. We will have to shift valuable resources towards burdensome administrative tasks because our staff is not organized by a labor union. This is unreasonable. We feel that our state licensing rules should be neutral as to union status. State licensing rules should not favor or punish licensees based on the union status of its workers.

These bills are not intended to negate workers' rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act, National Labor Relations Act or any other state or federal laws governing workers' rights. The bills do not condone unfair labor practices and do not limit employees' rights to seek all of the traditional remedies for such unlawful practices. The bill simply removes union status and employee wages and fringe benefits from the administrative rules governing adult foster care homes. All other laws remain in full effect.

**Page 2**

**I ask that you support these bills that protect us and 50,000 consumers living in licensed settings statewide. In supporting these bills, you will help enable the Michigan Department of Human Services and Community Health to maintain their focus on consumer's protection and not labor relations. In my view, labor relations must be left to the traditional state and federal agencies that have the expertise, experience and statutory authority to act to perform these functions.**

**I urge you to support these Senate and House Bills and welcome your questions. Also, please confirm for us to when these bills will be taken up by the full House and Senate. I would like to travel to Lansing and be present to hear the discussion and respective votes**

**Thank your for your assistance**